

Whereas the United States has free trade agreements in effect with 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, more than in any other geographic region, providing significant incentives to relocate international supply chains that cannot be relocated to the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean;

Whereas, in addition to existing free trade agreements and the geographic proximity of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States, there are several significant advantages for the United States Government and United States entities to relocate supply chains from the People's Republic of China to the Western Hemisphere, including—

(1) reduced distance to markets in the United States, which will lower freight costs, enable quicker adaptability to fluctuating consumer demand, and reduce the energy used to transport goods;

(2) longstanding bilateral ties and shared democratic values, which lessen the risk of geopolitical disruptions to supply chains;

(3) comparative advantages for sourcing and manufacturing key critical goods, including rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals, medical goods, and semiconductors, when there is a historical inability for such goods to be entirely sourced or manufactured in the United States; and

(4) access to a highly qualified and young working-age population;

Whereas the report entitled “Widening the Aperture: Nearshoring in Our ‘Near Abroad’” released by the Wilson Center in April 2021 provided evidence that increasing and strengthening supply chains regionally, particularly in Colombia, Mexico, and other countries in the Caribbean and Central America, will, on average, create more jobs in the United States than international supply chains located in other geographic regions;

Whereas switching as few as 15 percent of imports into the United States from the top 10 source countries of such imports outside of the Western Hemisphere to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean would increase exports from Latin America and the Caribbean by \$72,000,000,000 annually, helping the region recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing pressures encouraging migration to the United States;

Whereas, despite existing and growing opportunities for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to become crucial actors in global supply chains, including technological advances that have diminished the need to produce in countries with a low cost of labor, challenges to nearshoring remain, including—

(1) concerns about the rule of law, corruption, and criminal activities that discourage foreign direct investment or significantly raise the costs of shifting production to the region;

(2) concerns about compliance with and enforcement of international labor and environmental standards;

(3) underdeveloped physical and digital infrastructure; and

(4) regional economic fragmentation;

Whereas the governments of several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, have sought to strengthen economic relations with the United States and launched initiatives to incentivize nearshoring;

Whereas the Inter-American Development Bank (commonly known as “IDB”) has prioritized efforts to encourage nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(1) making economic integration and the strengthening of regional supply chains 1 of

5 core pillars in the agenda outlined in the document entitled “Vision 2025, Reinvest in the Americas”;

(2) including nearshoring as a business line of IDB Invest for the first time in the history of IDB;

(3) hosting a high-level dialogue with more than 500 private sector leaders on December 2, 2020, to assess how to increase production capacity and supply chain resilience in the region; and

(4) launching the largest private sector coalition in the history of the IDB to explore opportunities for reinvesting in countries in the Western Hemisphere, including through nearshoring initiatives and a toolkit to incentivize and finance nearshoring activities in the Western Hemisphere; and

Whereas the United States Government can leverage diplomatic, foreign assistance, and financing tools to strengthen the participation of Latin American and the Caribbean in global supply chains and address challenges to nearshoring, including through the activities of the United States Agency for International Development and the United States International Development Finance Corporation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that increased tensions between the United States and the People's Republic of China and the COVID-19 pandemic have—

(A) exposed severe vulnerabilities attributable to overreliance by the United States and other countries on supply chains based solely or mainly in the People's Republic of China; and

(B) heightened the importance of the United States diversifying its supply chains through reshoring and nearshoring initiatives to increase resiliency against future disruptions;

(2) emphasizes that reshoring efforts of sufficient scale to increase domestic production capacity and relocate supply chains to the United States remain critical and should be encouraged and implemented;

(3) emphasizes that—

(A) nearshoring efforts should be pursued in a complementary fashion to better achieve more resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains, particularly for goods unlikely to be manufactured in the United States;

(B) nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean, relative to relying on supply chains in other geographic regions, has the greatest potential to contribute to the economic prosperity and security of the United States while also advancing the post-pandemic economic recovery of countries in the Western Hemisphere;

(C) nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean provides greater opportunities for expanding co-production operations and other cooperative business ventures with United States entities; and

(D) nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean can complement and enhance efforts by the United States to support democratic consolidation across the region by strengthening the rule of law, encouraging competitiveness, and raising standards on corruption, labor, and environmental issues;

(4) supports initiatives by the Inter-American Development Bank, governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the private sector to finance, incentivize, or otherwise promote nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(5) encourages the United States Agency for International Development and the United States International Development Finance Corporation to strengthen programmatic support for initiatives likely to facilitate the relocation of global supply chains to the Western Hemisphere, including

through increased collaboration with each other, the private sector, the Inter-American Development Bank, and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(6) calls for governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to increase opportunities for nearshoring in the region by—

(A) modernizing and consolidating physical and digital infrastructure;

(B) combating corruption, strengthening the rule of law, enhancing labor and environmental standards, and improving democratic governance; and

(C) pursuing other efforts to facilitate the ease of doing business in and attract foreign direct investment to the region, including by leveraging strong relationships with Taiwan; and

(7) urges the Secretary of State, in coordination with the United States Agency for International Development, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and the heads of all other relevant Federal agencies and departments, to take a leading role in advancing nearshoring in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) strengthening support for the activities described in paragraph (6);

(B) engaging with governments in the Western Hemisphere to explore opportunities to lower trade barriers, streamline customs and other regulations, support capacity building programs to strengthen environmental and labor standards, establish incentives for mutually beneficial co-production arrangements, and facilitate economic integration of the region;

(C) strengthening legal regimes and monitoring and enforcement measures relating to labor standards to ensure that—

(i) any enhanced sourcing relationship with a country does not support or abet labor abuse or other human rights abuses, such as those found in the People's Republic of China; and

(ii) any new investment under a nearshoring program has sufficient labor standards and benefits the workers in such country;

(D) ensuring that nearshoring activities are consistent with efforts to improve supply chain energy efficiency, reduce the energy used to transport goods, and advance environmental sustainability; and

(E) working in partnership with multilateral development banks and private investors to create incentives for entities to relocate supply chains from the People's Republic of China to the Western Hemisphere, including by financing the development of regional technology hubs with strong labor and environmental regulations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 662—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2022 AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 662

Whereas the COVID-19 public health emergency has taken a toll on the mental well-being of the people of the United States and understandably has been stressful for many of those people;

Whereas, for more than 2 years, the United States has witnessed firsthand how fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and negatively affect mental health in both adults and children;

Whereas, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, before the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 1 in 5 adults in the United States lived with a mental illness;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”), before the COVID-19 pandemic, up to 1 in 5 children who were 3 to 17 years of age reported a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder;

Whereas, according to the CDC, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with mental health challenges;

Whereas the “Stress in America 2021: Stress and Decision-Making during the Pandemic” poll found that—

(1) 32 percent of adults, including 48 percent of Millennials, have so much stress about the COVID-19 pandemic that they struggle to make basic decisions, such as what to wear or what to eat;

(2) 59 percent of adults experienced behavior changes as a result of stress in the past month; and

(3) 63 percent of adults agreed that uncertainty about what the next few months would be like caused stress for those individuals;

Whereas the April 2, 2021, CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of adults with symptoms of an anxiety or a depressive disorder during the 7 days preceding the study rose from 36.4 percent in August 2020 to 41.5 percent in February 2021;

Whereas a Household Pulse Survey in December 2021 found that 30.7 percent of adults reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, which is up from 11 percent in 2019, and, among those adults, 27.8 percent reported an unmet need for counseling or therapy;

Whereas, according to the CDC, nearly 1 in 6 children has a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder, such as anxiety or depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (commonly referred to as “ADHD”), autism spectrum disorder (commonly referred to as “ASD”), disruptive behavior disorder, or Tourette syndrome;

Whereas, according to data collected by the CDC in 2021, 37 percent of high school students reported that they experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 44 percent of those students reported they persistently felt sad or hopeless;

Whereas, according to the CDC, mental health disorders are chronic conditions, and, without proper diagnosis and treatment with respect to those disorders, children can face problems at home, in school, and with their development;

Whereas, according to the CDC, children with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders benefit from early diagnosis and treatment;

Whereas the Federal Government supports a variety of programs aimed at providing behavioral and mental health resources to children and youth;

Whereas, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, 50 percent of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by 14 years of age, 75 percent of those illnesses begin by 24 years of age, and 20 percent of youth between 13 and 18 years of age live with a mental health condition;

Whereas an August 2021 study published in JAMA Pediatrics found that the prevalence of depression and anxiety symptoms during COVID-19 has doubled from pre-pandemic rates;

Whereas, in December 2021, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Dr. Vivek Murthy, issued a new Surgeon General’s Advisory—

(1) to highlight the urgent need for families, educators and schools, community organizations, media and technology companies, and governments to address the worsening youth mental health crisis in the United States; and

(2) that noted that—

(A) youth mental health challenges have been on the rise, even before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(B) from 2007 to 2018, the suicide rate among youth between 10 and 24 years of age increased by 57 percent;

Whereas Imperial College London estimates that more than 214,000 children in the United States have lost a parent or primary caregiver to COVID-19, which continues to raise concerns about the emotional well-being of children;

Whereas, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Behavioral Health Workforce Projections, many areas of the United States are currently experiencing a shortage of behavioral health care providers, particularly those with experience in treating children and adolescents;

Whereas a July 2021 survey by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing found that, during the 12-month period preceding the study—

(1) 49 percent of LGBTQ+ adults experienced more stress and mental health challenges, but only 41 percent said they received treatment or care of any kind for their mental health;

(2) 46 percent of Black adults experienced more stress and mental health challenges, but only 21 percent said they received treatment or care of any kind for their mental health;

(3) 45 percent of Native American adults experienced more stress and mental health challenges, but only 24 percent received treatment or care of any kind for their mental health;

(4) 42 percent of Hispanic adults experienced more stress and mental health challenges, but only 26 percent said they received treatment or care of any kind for their mental health;

(5) 40 percent of Asian adults experienced more stress and mental health challenges, but only 11 percent said they received treatment or care of any kind for their mental health; and

(6) 47 percent of all adults surveyed stated that the cost of help or treatment was an obstacle in seeking treatment for their mental health;

Whereas the number of adults reporting suicidal ideation in 2021 increased by 664,000 when compared with the 2020 dataset;

Whereas the 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report stated that veterans—

(1) account for 13.7 percent of suicides among United States adults; and

(2) have a 52.3 percent greater rate of suicide than the non-veteran United States population;

Whereas individuals between 10 and 24 years of age account for 14 percent of all suicides;

Whereas suicide is the ninth leading cause of death for adults between 35 and 64 years of age, and adults between 35 and 64 years of age account for 47.2 percent of all suicides in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, adults with disabilities were 3 times more likely to report suicidal ideation, at 30.6 percent in the month preceding the study, compared to individuals without disabilities, at 8.3 percent; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe May 2022 as “Mental Health Awareness Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2022 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” to remove the stigma associated with mental illness and place emphasis on scientific findings regarding mental health recovery;

(2) declares mental health to be a national priority;

(3) recognizes that mental well-being is as important as physical well-being for citizens, communities, schools, businesses, and the economy in the United States;

(4) applauds the coalescing of national, State, local, medical, and faith-based organizations in—

(A) working to promote public awareness of mental health; and

(B) providing critical information and support during the COVID-19 pandemic to individuals and families affected by mental illness; and

(5) encourages all people of the United States to draw on “Mental Health Awareness Month” as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate coverage and services, and support overall quality of life for those living with mental illness.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5048. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5049. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5050. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5051. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5052. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5053. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5054. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5055. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5056. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5057. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5058. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5059. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to